

SUBCHAPTER E—INDIAN LANDS PROGRAM

PART 750—REQUIREMENTS FOR SURFACE COAL MINING AND RECLAMATION OPERATIONS ON INDIAN LANDS

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AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 49 FR 38477, Sept. 28, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

§ 750.1 Scope.

This subchapter provides for the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian lands and constitutes the Federal program for Indian lands.

§ 750.5 Definitions.

For purposes of regulating surface coal mining operations on Indian lands, the following terms, when used in this subchapter or in parts referenced by this subchapter, have the following meanings:

BIA means the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

BLM means the Bureau of Land Management of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Federal program means the Federal program for Indian lands.

Indian mineral owner means (1) any individual Indian or Alaska native who owns land or mineral interests in land the title to which is held in trust by the United States or is subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States, or (2) any Indian

tribe, band, native, pueblo, community, rancheria, colony, or other group which owns land or mineral interest in land the title to which is held in trust by the United States or is subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States. This definition does not include owners of lands patented to a village or regional corporation pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Pub. L. 92-203.

Local government agencies means, in addition to county, city or township governments, Indian tribal governments.

Minerals agreement means any joint venture, operating, production sharing, service, managerial, lease or other agreements, or any amendment, supplement to or modification of such agreement, providing for the exploration for, or extraction, processing, or the development of coal, or providing for the sale or other disposition of the production or products of such coal resources.

MMS means the Minerals Management Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Regulatory authority means the Office of Surface Mining.

§ 750.6 Responsibilities.

(a) OSM shall: (1) Be the regulatory authority on Indian lands;

(2) After consultation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and, as applicable, with the Bureau of Land Management, conditionally approve, approve, or disapprove applications for permits, permit renewals, or permit revisions for surface coal mining operations on Indian lands, and applications for the transfer, sale or assignment of such permit rights on Indian lands;

(3) Conduct inspection and enforcement activities with respect to surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian lands;

(4) Consult with the BIA and the affected tribe with respect to special requirements relating to the protection

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of non-coal resources of the area affected by surface coal mining and reclamation operations, and assure operator compliance with such special requirements;

(5) Consult with the Bureau of Land Management concerning requirements relating to the development, production and recovery of mineral resources on Indian lands;

(6) Approve environmental protection performance bonds and liability insurance required for surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian lands but not the production royalty bond; and

(7) Ensure compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, with respect to permitting actions for surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian lands.

(b) The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for: (1) Receiving, reviewing, and conditionally approving, approving or disapproving coal exploration plans and mining plans, as provided in 25 CFR Chapter I or in specific Indian mineral agreements;

(2) Administering, and conducting inspection and enforcement for, coal exploration operations on Indian lands;

(3) Administering mining contract, lease or mineral agreement terms and conditions, as provided for in 25 CFR Chapter I or in specific Indian mineral agreements; and

(4) Administering and conducting inspections and enforcement of terms and conditions of contracts, leases or mineral agreements for coal mining operations, including production verification and inspection of operations for that purpose.

(c) The Minerals Management Service is responsible for collecting and accounting for royalties and other income from Indian mineral agreements except for annual rentals.

(d) The Bureau of Indian Affairs is responsible for: (1) Consulting directly with and providing representation for Indian mineral owners and other Indian land owners in matters relating to surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian lands;

(2) After consultation with the affected tribe, reviewing and making rec-

ommendations to OSM concerning permit applications, renewals, revisions or transfers of permits, permit rights or performance bonds; and

(3) After consultation with the affected tribe, reviewing mining plans and making recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management pursuant to 25 CFR 216.7.

§ 750.10 Information collection.

The Office of Management and Budget has determined that the information collection requirements contained in 30 CFR part 750 do not require approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

[59 FR 43420, Aug. 23, 1994]

§ 750.11 Permits.

(a) No person shall conduct surface coal mining operations on Indian lands after eight months following the effective date of this subchapter unless that person has first obtained a permit pursuant to this part.

(b) Any person conducting surface coal mining and reclamation operations on lands subject to this part shall comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, the requirements of this subchapter, and the Act.

(c) Surface coal mining operations authorized prior to the effective date of this subchapter may be conducted beyond the eight-month period specified in paragraph (a) of this section if the following conditions are present: (1) An application for a permit to conduct those operations under this part has been made within two months of the implementation of the Federal program for Indian lands;

(2) OSM has not yet rendered an initial administrative decision approving or disapproving the permit application; and

(3) Those operations are conducted in compliance with all terms and conditions of the lease or minerals agreement, the existing authorization to mine, the requirements of the Act, and the requirements of 25 CFR Chapter I.

(d) Whenever surface coal mining and reclamation operations are proposed to include both Indian lands and non-Indian lands, OSM will use reasonable efforts to ensure that reviews of the permit applications will be conducted cooperatively and concurrently by OSM